

Of this group, I conceive Heawandoo Island is better adapted than any other for a coal depôt: it lies nearly in a direct line between Point de Galle and Socotra, at about one-third of the whole distance from the former place, is easy of access in every direction, and possesses safe anchorages for ships and steamers in all seasons. During the S. W. monsoon, a vessel could anchor on the east side of the island between it and a small reef, dry at low-water; in the N. E. monsoon, the best anchorage is in the channel between the island and the south barrier reef in 16 or 17 fathoms, sand and rocks. Opposite both these anchorages, there are good landing places for boats, which are procurable in sufficient numbers, and may easily be made available for the landing or shipment of coals, &c. The natives, who are civil and peaceable, might I think, be induced to work for a small hire, such as rice, tobacco, &c. or any other remuneration they might consider adequate.

In approaching Heawandoo Pholo Atoll, from the eastward, a vessel ought to sight Kílah, the northernmost Island of the Tilla Doo Matte Atoll, and then steer across the channel to Heawandoo Island, passing close to Gullandoo, to avoid the small patches between it and Moor-doo.

III.—*Examination of a Mummy Head, supposed to be brought from Egypt by Lieut. ARCHBOLD. By Dr. GEORGE EVANS.*

[In a letter to the Secy., read before the Asiatic Society, July 1, 1835.]

[The mummy preparations, to which the following note refers, were presented at the meeting of the Asiatic Society, the 3rd Sept. 1834. There were two wrappers, supposed to contain the sacred *Ibis*: one of these was opened in the presence of Drs. GRANT, PEARSON, BRAMLEY, and EVANS. The head, being in a decayed state, was, after taking a sketch, to shew the mode of dressing the hair, given to Dr. EVANS, who himself kindly undertook to clean it as an osteological specimen for the Society's museum.—ED.]

In returning these relics of antiquity, I have again to offer an apology for having detained them so long in my possession; they are at length put up as preparations, and as such will, no doubt, remain many years in a good state of preservation.

In my examination of the smaller, I have so far succeeded as to shew satisfactorily that four birds are embodied in the mass we supposed to be the mummy of the sacred *Ibis*. With the aid of the marks I have made, you will be able to distinguish eight distinct feet, with their toes and claws, severally attached; also three heads: the fourth, I take for granted, is there also, and seated below the parts already exposed, but the crumbling and decayed state of the mummy renders

its display somewhat difficult, and any attempt to bring it into view would, I fear, endanger the spoiling of the preparation. I therefore thought it best to leave it unexplored. What description of birds they are, it is difficult to say; the form of the heads and mandibles would lead me to pronounce them Plovers, but for the toe at the back of the foot, which is altogether wanting in the genus *Charadrius*; it is therefore not improbable they belong either to the Rail or *Tringa* family. Whatever they are, it is evident they must have been enclosed when very young, and barely fledged; for I can detect no quill feathers or traces of any having been attached to the wings, although the smaller feathers are closely matted together, and distinct enough. What further tends to confirm this opinion is, the great disproportion of the bones of the wings to those of the legs and other parts of the body—a discrepancy common to all young birds before they attain the power of flight. I am consequently disposed to consider them as nestlings, and think it not unlikely that a variety of birds, besides the *Ibis Religiosa*, might have been deified by the ancient Egyptians.

In detaching the birds from the enveloping bituminous matter, I met with a seed of the common castor oil plant, apparently in a good state of preservation. As it is a curious circumstance, I have enclosed it in a small phial along with the fragments of Beetles you sent for my inspection: these latter appear to be portions of a small kind of common *locusts*; elytra of some kind of *Buprestis*, and pieces of a species of *carabus*; but in their mutilated condition it is impossible to identify any of them with existing specimens.

The head is that of a female, rather below the ordinary stature of women, and I should say about 20 or 22 years of age, judging from the best criterion, the teeth, and the little attrition they seem generally to have undergone. The *dentes sapientiæ* in both jaws are only partially advanced, which with the profusion and colour of the hair, and the tiara kind of form it is drest in, I think are sufficiently indicative of youthfulness. The lineaments of the face must have been small, compressed laterally, and much sunken below the eyes, for the sinuosities beneath the orbits are remarkably deep, and the malar bones very angular and projecting. The forehead is low, and though straight for its extent is by no means ample, giving a facial angle of about 78° , indicating no extraordinary development of the intellectual and reflecting faculties, and an approach to what Camper would call the minimum of comeliness; but the angle is evidently diminished by the great protrusion of the upper maxilla, from the nasal spine, of which the measurement is made in taking the facial line.

The nasal aperture is wide and capacious, and nearly circular, owing it would seem to the very divergent state or distance of the nasal processes of the superior maxillæ from each other; the separation being to the full extent of an inch, which is an unusual width for so small a skull. Nasal bones large and prominent, with a good bridge-like convexity. The styloid processes, which in a full grown male adult have often only a ligamentous connection to the temporal bones, have here an ossific union, and are withal unusually long and firm, considering the age and sex of the individual. The great foramen at the base of the skull is elongated from before backwards, and would seem to correspond with the compressed sides of the head, and projecting state of the occipital bone, on which the organs of amativeness and philoprogenitiveness are rather fully developed.

The only marked peculiarity observable in the lower jaw is the recedent chin, which being on a contrary inclination to the facial line, is a further departure from the Grecian ideal model of beauty, while it is a strong characteristic mark of Ethiopian descent.

The vomer or bone forming the partition of the nose was found loose in the cranial vault, and there is little doubt, must have been forced there at the time of embalment, when the ethmoid bone was broken down, to allow of the removal of the brain and contents of the skull, which, it is evident, could only have been disposed of through the chamber of the nose.

In my examination of this head, it appears to me, that the leading characters of the Caucasian variety of the human race (under which both ancient and modern Egyptian are included) in this individual instance are far from being prominent, or distinct; and as some of the peculiar traits that characterize the Ethiopian formation, (taking it in its wide extended sense,) on the other hand, are most conspicuous, it is not unlikely that the subject of comparison may be of mixed origin, and probably of Egyptian and Abyssinian descent.

IV.—*Memorandum on the Fœtus of the Squalus Maximus.* By
Dr. J. T. PEARSON, Curator.

This specimen of the fœtus of a shark having been sent to me by Mr. J. C. WILSON, I have put it up in spirits, and have now the pleasure of presenting it, in his name, to the Asiatic Society.

The species appears to be the *Squalus Maximus* of Linnæus; and Mr. WILSON states in his note that "a shark of 11 feet in length was